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Letter dated 15 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to provide an account of facts for your attention as well as that of the other members of the United Nations Security Council in relation to the armed incident between Thai and Cambodian troops as follows:

On 15 October 2008, at 2.15 p.m., Thai troops crossed into Cambodian territory at the following three locations in the area of the Temple of Preah Vihear and fired on Cambodian soldiers stationed at these locations:

- The Keo Sikha Kiri Svara Pagoda: situated at approximately 300 metres from the Temple of Preah Vihear and 700 metres from the border,
- Veal Intry: situated approximately 1,120 metres from the border, at coordinates 649-208,
- Phnom Trap: situated approximately 1,600 metres from the border.

These areas are all well within Cambodian territory. In 1962, the International Court of Justice adjudicated that the Temple of Preah Vihear was within Cambodia's territory based on a map (the Dangrek map of annex I, attached herewith; see annex). This map and six other maps were produced by the Franco-Siamese Commission for the Delimitation of Frontiers between Indochina and Siam. These maps were the basis of a number of treaties between France and Siam until the independence of Cambodia in 1953. The judgment of the International Court of Justice considers the annex I map as an integral part of the initial treaty settlement of the Cambodian-Thai border. Both Cambodia and Thailand recognized the maps in a memorandum of understanding signed in 2000 as the basis for the demarcation of boundary between the two countries.

The Royal Government of Cambodia considers the armed clash in these three areas to be a very serious armed provocation by Thailand, which would lead to large scale armed hostilities between the two countries.

Allow me to recall also that Thai soldiers, after having entered and occupied the Keo Sikha Kiri Svara Pagoda on 15 July 2008 and the temples of Tamone Toch and Tamone Thom in Cambodian territory on 26 July 2008, crossed into the area of Veal Intry, which is also situated inside Cambodian territory, on 13 October 2008.

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On 14 October 2008, Thai troops withdrew from Veal Intry area after Cambodia had protested.

On 15 October 2008, they returned to the same location and fired guns on Cambodian soldiers, who had no choice but to exercise their right to self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. As a consequence, two Cambodian soldiers were killed and two were injured.

The Royal Government of Cambodia wishes to reiterate its firm commitment to exercise utmost restraint and to negotiate and work closely with Thailand to avoid large scale armed hostilities between the two countries.

I would be very grateful if you could circulate this letter and the attached map to members of the United Nations Security Council as a document of the United Nations Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Sea** Kosal
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia
to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Cambodia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council